

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 137826
ORIGIN NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 SSM-05 ISO-00 H-02
PA-02 SIG-03 PM-05 INR-10 SSO-00 NSAE-00 INRE-00
SS-15 PCH-02 /092 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:WBHARRIS:RGH
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
PA/PRS - MR. CARTER
H - MR. FLATEN
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER
NEA/EGY - MR. MARTHINSEN
NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM

-----028829 312231Z /62

O 312053Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
USCINCEUR
DOD
JCS WASHDC 0341
CIA WASHDC 0400
USICA WASHDC
NSC WASHDC 0322
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS POUCH

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD, TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVER BY 9 A.M.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - MAY 31

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE
EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR MAY 31, 1978.
FYI ONLY, SPOKESMAN TODAY WAS HODDING CARTER III.

Q. IN THE KNESSET, GENERAL WEITZMAN NOW CONFIRMS THAT
THE SETTLEMENTS AT SHILOH WAS IN FACT A RESIDENTIAL
SETTLEMENT AND NOT AN ARCHEOLOGICAL DIG. DO YOU HAVE ANY
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COMMENT, FIRST, ON THAT SPECIFIC INSTANCE? ALSO, DO YOU
SEE ANY PATTERN IN THE CURRENT STALEMATE FOR ISRAEL TO
CREATE A STATUS QUO IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES?

A. I THINK THE ANSWER IS NO AND NO. I DONT HAVE ANY
COMMENT AND NO, I DONT SEE A PATTERN.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE SADAT PRESS CONFERENCE
YESTERDAY?

A. THE REPORTS WE HAVE OF PRESIDENT SADAT'S PRESS
CONFERENCE UNDERLINE HIS WILLINGNESS TO CONTINUE THE
NEGOTIATING PROCESS WHICH BEGAN WITH HIS VISIT TO

JERUSALEM LAST NOVEMBER. IN THIS RESPECT, WE PARTICULAR-
LY WELCOME HIS STATEMENT THAT EGYPT IS PREPARED TO
RECIPROCATATE ANY NEW IDEAS PUT FORWARD BY ISRAEL IN
CONTINUED DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS. HE STRESSED HIS FLEXI-
BILITY IN CONTINUING NEGOTIATIONS. AS YOU KNOW, WE ARE
CURRENTLY AWAITING ANSWERS FROM THE ISRAELI CABINET TO
QUESTIONS FROM SECRETARY VANCE ABOUT POSSIBLE CONCRETE
WAYS TO PROCEED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, SPECIFICALLY,

OVER THE FUTURE OF THE WEST BANK AND GAZA.

AS YOU ALSO KNOW, WE EXPECT THOSE ANSWERS SOON, THOUGH NO EXACT DATE HAS BEEN SET. THE REASON YOU KNOW THAT IS THAT I KEEP SAYING THAT WE THINK MAYBE THE NEXT SUNDAY AND THE NEXT SUNDAY WE'LL GET AN ANSWER. ON THIS WHOLE QUESTION OF TIME LIMITS OR DEADLINES, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THIS SITUATION WHERE SUCH COMPLEX ISSUES ARE BEING NEGOTIATED LENDS ITSELF TO SPECIFIC TIME LIMITS. WE DO RECOGNIZE THE NEED FOR MOVEMENT. WE BELIEVE BOTH ISRAEL AND EGYPT ALSO RECOGNIZE THAT NEED. INTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS CONTINUE ON WAYS TO ACHIEVE IT, BUT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO SAY THAT SUCCESS OR FAILURE CAN BE DETERMINED BY A SPECIFIC DATE. CHRISTOPHER
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NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED ALGIERS.

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NNN

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